

**Glenwood Ranger District**

**Gila National Forest**

**ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS**

2014

Devils Park Allotment #427

**Prepared By:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
District Range Staff

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Approved By:**

DEBBIE C CRESS /s/  
District Ranger

**Date:** -----1/24/14---

## Annual Operating Instructions

### I. INTRODUCTION

Kendall Brown (Forest Service) met with Danny Montoya (permittee) on January 24, 2014, to discuss management of the Devil's Park Allotment during the current grazing year and to plan grazing management for the upcoming grazing season. These Annual Operating Instructions are the result of that discussion.

#### Term Permitted Livestock Numbers

Number and Class of Livestock	Dates
67 Cattle-Cow/Calf (Not to exceed 808 Animal Months)	03/01 – 02/28

#### Authorized Use:

Number and Class of Livestock	Dates
90 Cattle-Heifers	03/01 – 02/28
5 Cattle-Bulls	03/01 – 02/28

#### Pasture Rotation

Livestock Class	Rotation Date	Pasture
Heifers & Bulls	03/01 – 07/30	Six Bar
Heifers & Bulls	07/30 – 10/30	Devils Park
Heifers & Bulls	11/01 – 02/28	Frisco
Heifers & Bulls	3/01 – 02/28	Horse Pasture (private land and FS pasture)*

\*Use for holding/hospital. Can be used throughout the year until utilization levels are met (35%).

The rotation schedule is not intended to identify specific dates for rotations but only to identify a general time frame. All rotations should be based on utilization or other resource objectives. The above schedule for stocking the allotment depends upon the availability of forage and water. Some flexibility in the above pasture rotation dates will be allowed for justifiable causes such as weather conditions, livestock management needs, and range conditions. If there is a need to deviate from the above pasture rotation schedule by more than 15 days, you must notify the District Ranger of the proposed change in the pasture rotation date and the reason for the change. A deviation from the above schedule of more than 15 days must be approved by the District Ranger verbally or in writing. The District Ranger must be notified 5 days prior to the time livestock enter or leave the Forest if the placing on or removal of livestock is not planned in the above schedule, and more than 10 head are being moved. Failure to do so may lead to adverse action against your Term Grazing Permit.

### II. MANAGEMENT OF LIVESTOCK

You are responsible for monitoring water availability and forage utilization. It is your responsibility to move your livestock when sufficient water is no longer available or when proper forage utilization is achieved in a pasture. You are responsible for keeping track of and maintaining control of your livestock. In the event your livestock are found to be out of the scheduled pasture, you will be required to find, gather, and return your

animals to the proper pasture as soon as possible. Failure to maintain control of your livestock may lead to adverse action against your Term Grazing Permit.

### **III. IMPROVEMENT MAINTENANCE**

All range improvements assigned in the 10-year Term Grazing Permit are to be maintained in a functioning condition. In the event these improvements cannot be brought up to a functioning condition, you should notify the Range Staff at the Glenwood Ranger District to schedule them for reconstruction as funds become available. I appreciate your willingness to maintain your improvements.

Priority range developments that we agreed to pursue are:

- Frying Pan well conversion to solar. The FS purchased materials for this conversion in 2013 and issued to the previous permittee. You state that you are in possession of these materials. Your plan is to complete this project in 2014.
- Reconstruction of fence # 3146, the Devil's Park Holding Pasture is the final improvement specified in the 2001 National Environmental Policy Act decision. You state this project was completed in Fall 2013, but that it has been elk damaged and needs fixing of ~200 yard section. District Personnel will inspect in early 2014.
- Devils Creek water point fence to be repaired/maintained.

Additional proposed range developments for 2013:

- Heavy maintenance on eastern boundary Devils Park/Deep Creek fence (Whitewater/Baldy Fire).

### **IV. GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS**

**1. Fire:** Branding and warming fires should be used with good judgment: not on windy days or during times when fires are specifically restricted. The Glenwood District may allow naturally ignited fires to burn on the district this coming year. We will notify you if we plan to let a fire burn on your allotment.

**2. Records:** In order to close out permit modifications you must provide documentation of materials and labor constituting your contribution to the permit modification. You must provide documentation of cattle numbers; dates of entering and leaving pastures, shipping dates and cattle losses (grown stock and calves). This information is used to substantiate the carrying capacity of the allotment. The information demonstrates use and the need for forage to meet the economic needs of the county. This information may also be used to establish cause and effect if there is a significant change in calf crop (Example, a wolf pack becomes established near your allotment).

**3. Heavy Equipment Use:** Please notify district well in advance of any plans to use heavy equipment so that necessary clearances and/or permits can be obtained. You will be notified by the district when you can proceed.

**4. Credit/Refund:** Any credit or refund applications for grazing fees must be made as far in advance as possible. Credit/Refund applications are not retroactive and will be approved only if the District Ranger is notified of livestock removal, prior to, or at the time, the livestock are taken off the allotment. **You will be required to provide your**

## **Social Security or Tax ID number in order for a refund to be processed.**

A \$25 administrative fee will be charged for any additional bills for collection that are sent to you due to either late payment or for split billing on seasonal allotments. This fee will be collected to pay for the cost associated with issuing an additional bill for collection. There is no administrative fee for the normal "split billing" on yearlong allotments.

It is necessary for you to write the bill number on your check prior to submitting it to the lockbox. This is necessary to insure that your payment is credited to your account.

**5. Short Age Calf Policy:** Any short-aged calves (calves less than 6 months old on December 31) must be removed from the National Forest by April 1, or you will need to apply for and pay grazing fees for these animals from April 1 to the time they are removed from the National Forest. Calves that are 6 months old or older on December 31 need to be paid for starting January 1

### **6. Salting and Supplemental Feeding:**

- a. Feeding of energy supplements on National Forest land will not be permitted unless a proven need to use the supplements is shown, and a detailed plan is developed and approved.
- b. Feeding of hay on National Forest land will not be permitted unless a proven need to use the supplement is shown, and a detailed plan is developed and approved. All supplemental hay must be **certified weed free** hay and you must provide the proper documentation.
- c. Feeding of vitamin or mineral supplements, protein blocks or molasses licks on National Forest land is permitted when used in the same manner as salt.
- d. Salting practices will be in agreement with the 10-Year Term Grazing Permit. Salt will be placed in areas of available feed to help draw cattle to them. Salt will not be placed within ¼ mile from water and/or in natural concentrations areas which receive heavy grazing use.

## **V. ALLOTMENT STATUS**

The Devils Park Allotment has sufficient NEPA and an Allotment Management Plan is in place. If you do not have a copy of these documents, please contact us. This AOI implements the NEPA decision.

## **VI. OTHER ITEMS DISCUSSED**

You indicated that you are in favor of managed fire on your allotment. The District Ranger will authorize necessary changes to this AOI to accommodate fire management.

## **VII. SPECIAL MANAGEMENT CONCERNS**

Keep track of conditions on your allotment and make plans to reduce or remove livestock if vegetative/watershed conditions could be substantially harmed due to continued grazing. The forecast for the upcoming winter and spring is dry and warm. If dry conditions continue through the summer growing season, a reduction in herd size may be recommended. If the herd size is reduced, restocking of allotments to full

numbers will not take place until forage plants regain vigor.

## VIII. UTILIZATION MONITORING OF KEY AREAS

### Monitoring schedule

Pasture	Monitoring Date	Key Area
Frisco	02/28	Frying Pan, Devils Creek, C4 & C5
Devils Park	11/01	Park 1 & 2
Six Bar	06/01	Six Bar

### Utilization management objectives for key perennial species:

Key Species	Range Condition	Season	Allowable Stubble Heights & Their Percent Equivalents
Blue grama	Fair condition range or better	Growing	2.5 inches (30% or Light use)
Blue grama	Fair condition range or better	Dormant	2.0 inches (35% or Moderate use)
Blue grama	Poor condition range	Growing/Dormant	2.5+ inches (20% or light use)
Sideoats grama	Fair condition range or better	Growing	9+ inches (30% or Light use)
Sideoats grama	Fair condition range or better	Dormant	8.0 inches (35% or Moderate use)
Sideoats grama	Poor condition range	Growing/Dormant	9+ inches (20% or light use)

(From Table 2. Grazing Intensity Guide. Rangelands 22(3) Holechek and Galt, June 2000).

When utilization standards are met within one of the described key areas, cattle will be moved to another area of the pasture, a different pasture, or off the allotment.

The San Francisco River will continue to be excluded to livestock grazing. The location and timing of river crossings has been identified by the Forest Fisheries Biologist to avoid direct effects to loach minnows. See the table below.

River Crossing Locations	River Crossing Date
Livestock are not to cross in locations of riffle habitat and/or areas at the head of riffle habitat.	10/15 – 11/15 annually
Livestock may cross in locations of pool habitat.	
Livestock may cross in locations of slow moving water.	

District personnel will continue utilization and stubble height monitoring on key areas. In order to insure that stubble height requirements are not exceeded, monitoring will be conducted during the end of the scheduled use period for each pasture. It is necessary that utilization is in compliance with the established stubble height requirements. You are responsible for recognizing utilization levels and complying with established stubble height requirements. At a minimum, forest personnel will monitor key areas within two weeks before or after livestock leave a pasture. Monitoring is scheduled for the following dates and you are highly encouraged to participate in monitoring stubble height requirements.

If unforeseen operational conditions require a change in the management specified in this AOI please contact rangeland management personnel at the Glenwood Ranger District to obtain approval of change(s). Advanced notice of change is requested so that field inspections can be conducted. Verbal approval of changes will be followed with a letter documenting the change.

Open and positive communications concerning all AOI content is encouraged. Feel free to contact Kendall Brown or Allen Graves if you have any questions or concerns.